

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR REMOTE MONITORING AND CONTROL OVER A COMPUTER NETWORK

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Improved techniques to remotely monitor locations, to detect activity, and to remotely monitor and control devices or appliances through a network are disclosed. The remote monitoring of locations is provided by efficiently transmitting images over the network to a remote machine located at a remote location. The remote monitoring is suitable for home monitoring, daycare monitoring, nursing or hospital home monitoring, business monitoring, etc. In one embodiment, the efficiency is facilitated by comparing a current image with a reference image, and then only transmitting the current image if it differs from the reference image by more than a predetermined threshold amount. The remote monitoring can also operate as an alarm system or provide intruder detection based on detected changes in images from a locally provided camera. The remote monitoring and controlling of controllable devices is provided by sending control information to and receiving status information from information appliances over a network. A user is thus able to not only monitor the information appliances from a remote location, but also control the information appliances from the remote location. The remote monitoring and control can be facilitated by graphical user interfaces.